

In the claims:

Kindly amend claim 1, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of making a beverage container constructed from at least two panels of flexible laminate web material, at least a first panel thereof having an outer structural layer, a barrier layer and an inner sealant layer,

in which said inner sealant layer is provided at half its final thickness, said final thickness being approximately 80-90 microns,

said method comprising the steps of:

punching a hole through all the layers of said first panel, and

supplementing said inner sealant layer with molten sealant applied by extrusion coating, along the entire outer surface of said inner sealant layer, thereby occluding said punched hole and simultaneously providing a an integrally-formed specific area of weakness for ease of puncture,

said molten sealant supplement completing said final thickness of said inner sealant layer, while ~~simultaneously functioning as the equivalent of an~~ eliminating the need for an additional integral closure sheeting patch,

such that when said first panel is cooled, said panels can be joined to thereby form a drinking pouch.

2.(previously amended) A method of making a beverage container as described in claim 1, wherein said inner sealant layer is polyethylene in a first desired thickness and said extruded molten sealant is extruded molten polyethylene.

3.(original) A method of making a beverage container according to claim 1, including the steps of conveying a bottom sheeting web in the conveying direction between the front and rear side sheeting webs, and welding the bottom sheeting web in part to the front and rear side sheeting webs.

4.(original) A method of making a beverage container according to claim 2, including the steps of conveying a bottom sheeting web in the conveying direction between the front and rear side sheeting webs, and welding the bottom sheeting web in part to the front and rear side sheeting webs.

5.(currently amended) A method of producing a beverage container made out of flexible laminate web material, including an external structural layer, an air/moisture barrier layer and an inner sealant layer, said method comprising using a movable directed laser source, enabling at least two passes over the same point, to provide a puncture point on a surface of said web material at the intersection of at least two beam paths across said web material, such that the external structural layer is scored and ~~weakening~~ the inner sealant beneath said puncture point is weakened by heat transmission causing thermal changes therein, ~~area of the structural layer~~ by at least double scoring of said puncture point.

6.(original) A method of producing a beverage container in accordance with claim 5, wherein said

puncture point is formed by the intersection of at least three laser score paths.

7.(currently amended) A method of producing a beverage container in accordance with claim 5 6, wherein said intersection of laser score paths is provided against a highlighted background area on said web material.

8.(canceled)

9.(original) A method of making a beverage container as described in claim 5, further comprising adjusting the energy and the speed of the laser beam to achieve the effect of a beam in the range of 2.5 joules to 3.5 joules.

10.(original) A method of making a beverage container as described in claim 5, further comprising adjusting the laser beam energy by changing the distance between surface and said directed energy source.

11.(original) A method of making a beverage container in accordance with claim 7, wherein said highlighted area is a dot.

12.(currently amended) A drinking bag container made out of flexible laminate web material having a focal weakness comprising intersecting double-scored laser score paths, provided for insertion of a drinking straw.

13. (original) A drinking bag container made out of flexible web material according to claim 12, wherein said intersection of laser score paths is provided in a highlighted area on said web material.

14. (currently amended) A drinking bag container made out of flexible web material according to claim 12, having the width of the laser score paths 3-4 times wider than 0.5 mm ~~normal~~, thereby providing a larger focal weakness.

15. (original) A drinking bag container made out of flexible web material according to claim 12, comprising a dot on the outer side of the front side of the bag, in order to enable a child to know where is the exact place which should be pierced by the straw.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously amended) A method of making a beverage container as described in claim 20, in which the punched holes are covered by said sealant layer, the entire width of said sealant layer, comprised of said molten adherence layer and said solid outer layer, ends up having a thickness similar to that of the finished flexible web material known in the prior art.

18. (currently amended) A drinking bag container made according to the method of claim 1, having from at least two panels of flexible laminate web material, at least one of said two panels of flexible laminate web material having a structural layer, and a

barrier layer, said structural layer and said barrier layer having a hole passing therethrough and further having an extruded sealant layer applied onto said barrier layer and occluding said hole passing through said barrier layer and said structural layer.

19.(original) A drinking bag container in accordance with claim 18, further comprising a sealant layer applied onto said extruded sealant layer.

20.(currently amended) A method of making a beverage container constructed from at least two panels of flexible laminate web material, at least a first panel providing a front side web thereof having an outer structural layer and a barrier layer, said method comprising the steps of:

punching a hole through all the layers of the front side web;

~~comprising~~ covering said punched hole by forming ~~a~~ an inner sealant layer using extrusion lamination, said inner sealant layer comprised of two layers, a molten adherence layer and a solid outer layer,

said adherence layer being spread uniformly on to the sheet, thereby occluding the entire surface of the front side web, including said ~~holes~~ hole and simultaneously providing an integrally-formed specific area of weakness for ease of puncture,

said outer layer being placed onto said adherence layer during the production process, using said adherence layer as an adhesive in order to stick the web together and eliminating the need for an additional closure sheeting patch.